

Every part of New Mexico is affected by this drought, and much of the rest of the Southwest as well. In one part of New Mexico, farmers are predicting that they will obtain about 1 bushel per acre of wheat. Usually the yield is about 45 bushels per acre. To keep the livestock alive, ranchers are forced in some cases to burn the thorns off prickly pear cacti to give their cattle a little food. Ranchers are having to sell off cattle just to pay the interest on the loans that they have, and, of course, the cattle market is flooded. Calves that would have sold for \$125 a year ago now are selling for \$10 to \$20.

Fireworks in my State have been banned by our State Corporation Commission statewide from now through the 18th of the month. I think they are going to consider extending that ban assuming no rain is forthcoming; 22 of 33 counties have been declared disaster drought areas.

Let me refer to some charts that I have here, Mr. President, to make the point even more graphically. I think these are hard for anyone to see from a distance, but perhaps the coloration of the charts will make the point.

As I understand, the Weather Service's main indicator for drought areas—severe drought—is the so-called Palmer Index. When you look at the Palmer Index for the country as a whole—this is valid through the end of March 1996—you can see that much of my State or the majority of my State even by the end of March was listed in a severe or extreme drought condition. Here again is the drought severity index. This is the long-term Palmer Index, which shows the bright red area, which shows most of my State and, of course, most of the Presiding Officer's State of Arizona listed again as severe or extreme drought. Much of Nevada and California as well as much of the Southwestern part of the country is affected.

On U.S. precipitation rankings, again from the Weather Bureau, you can see that extremely dry is the bright orange area through the entire State of New Mexico and much of the rest of the Southwest as well. This final chart is one which tries to show the severity of the fire danger. As of May 3, 1996, again it shows virtually all of New Mexico and all of Arizona and much of Texas, Colorado, Utah, California, and Nevada.

So this is a serious problem, Mr. President.

What I have proposed and what many have joined me in proposing is Senate bill 1743, the Temporary Emergency Livestock Feed Assistant Act of 1996. The bill would give immediate assistance to ranchers if passed. We now have 14 cosponsors of that legislation as of last count. We would be putting the livestock feed program back into effect with this legislation for a 1-year period. The program was suspended in the recently enacted farm bill. This proposed legislation would extend the program through 1996.

Under the bill, producers who have suffered at least a 40-percent loss of feed production would be able to apply for assistance through their local farm service agencies. The livestock eligible would be cattle, sheep, and goats. The old program was funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation. We do not propose to do that again. S. 1743 targets \$18 million from the Cottonseed and Sunflower Seed Oil Export Assistance Program. I am informed that this is money which is not expected to be used this current year. It is money that was appropriated but will not be used for that purpose because the need is not there.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture has a stockpile of grain. The stockpile, of course, is referred to as the Commodity Reserve Program.

I was encouraged to see that there is a resolution that now has passed the House and which is expected to be considered here in the Senate very shortly to urge the Secretary of Agriculture and the President to go forward with use of that Commodity Reserve Program. That is another part of the legislation that we introduced calling on the Secretary of Agriculture to report back as to what portion of those commodities could appropriately be used to provide assistance to these ranchers.

Mr. President, this is a serious problem. It is not one that has been short-lived. We have been living with the drought now for many months in the Southwest. Unfortunately, the situation seems to continue. Each of my calls back to New Mexico, regardless of what subject I call to discuss with people there, begins with a discussion about the drought and the lack of rainfall.

I hope very much that the Senate and the Congress as a whole will go ahead and act on this Temporary Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act. I have talked to the chairman and ranking member of the Agriculture Committee and asked them to give attention to this, and hopefully we can take action on this in the next few weeks before we adjourn for the Fourth of July recess.

This is the kind of constructive act that I think would encourage people in their view of the Congress. There is, of course, a tremendous amount of politics being played in Washington these days on all sides. Everyone knows that. We are looking for things that we can agree upon and constructively pursue. In my view, enactment of this Senate bill 1743 should be one of those actions that we could take on a bipartisan basis which would help the people that we are sent here to represent.

Mr. President, I urge consideration of this. I encourage any of the other Senators or their staffers who may be watching or hearing the discussion today who would like to cosponsor the legislation to do so. Let me read off a short list of 14 cosponsors before I conclude my remarks.

On the Democratic side, Senators DASCHLE, BAUCUS, DORGAN, EXON, and

HARKIN are cosponsors; on the Republican side, my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, Senator GRAMM of Texas, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator HATCH, Senator INHOFE, Senator KYL, Senator PRESSLER, Senator HUTCHISON, and Senator KASSEBAUM are cosponsors.

I think this is clearly a bipartisan effort to deal with a very real-life, immediate situation. I hope very much we can take action on this in the next week or two so that relief of some sort at least can be provided before the July 4 recess. I will be looking for opportunities to move this legislation forward. We cannot legislate rain, but we can legislate relief to assist those who are suffering because of the drought.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this Saturday marks the 50th anniversary of Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA, where our Nation's past comes alive for large numbers of visitors each year.

In 1995, over 500,000 people—including 110,000 schoolchildren—visited Old Sturbridge Village and enjoyed its workshops, performances, arts and crafts programs, and numerous special events. The American Association of Museums has described the village as a "model living history museum. The historic structures and their interpretation combine to offer visitors an experience that is authentic, instructive, and enjoyable. Education programs at Old Sturbridge Village set a very high standard for others to aspire toward . . . [and] deserve to be emulated in our profession."

Old Sturbridge Village has accomplished a great deal since it first opened to the public in 1946. It was originally established through the philanthropy of Albert Wells and J. Cheney Wells, two brothers who owned and operated the American Optical Company in Southbridge, MA. The Wells brothers were passionate collectors of American antiques. When their collections outgrew their homes, they came up with the idea of displaying them in a working village that would recreate the occupations of early 19th century New England for future generations.

Today, Old Sturbridge Village stands on a 200-acre tract of farmland and meadows donated by the Wells brothers, complete with a Federal-era mansion, a working sawmill and gristmill, and over 40 buildings that house their collections of antiques. Visitors who walk along the village's unpaved roads,

or go into the Asa Knight General Store stocked with snuff and tooth powder have a genuine sense of stepping back into time and history. I have visited Old Sturbridge Village many times with my family, and I am always greatly impressed with the exhibits and demonstrations.

President Kennedy once said that "we celebrate the past to awaken the future." For 50 years, Old Sturbridge Village has accomplished that goal. I commend Alberta Scott George, president of Old Sturbridge Village, and her dedicated staff, past and present, on this auspicious anniversary for all they have done so well, and for their skill in preserving these fascinating aspects of our Massachusetts heritage and history.

SWISS BANKS, JEWISH DEPOSITS, AND PLUNDERED JEWISH ASSETS

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to speak again on the role of Swiss banks during the war in relation to their continued retention of Jewish assets as well as looted Jewish assets.

During the course of our ongoing inquiry into these important subjects, we continue to find documents which detail the alleged use of Swiss banks by the Nazis for illicit purposes. One such declassified intelligence document, dated June 12, 1945, from the U.S. Legation in Bern, Switzerland, entitled "Interim Report on Johann Wehrli & Co., Zurich," details the use of a special account set up at what was then called the Wehrli Bank in Zurich under the name of the "Trustee Account Gustloff Stiftung."

I want to quote the relevant section of this document to further explain this point.

The payments to the Germans of the Hirtenbergerwerke ([Fritz] Mandl's munitions factory in Austria) assets, which were under Mandl's control in 1938, were effected through the Wehrli Bank to an account known as Trustee Account Gustloff Stiftung. The examiner, who has a personal knowledge concerning the background of this trust as a result of his many years residence in Germany before the war, described the Gustloff Stiftung as a "fund" in which were placed the assets and titles of property taken by the Nazis from Jewish businessmen in Germany and the occupied countries. Gustloff, the head of the Nazi party in Switzerland, was murdered in 1935 by one Frankfurter. In accordance with the prevailing practice at the time, Gustloff was selected by the Nazis as one of their "martyrs" and many statues were erected to perpetuate his name. The name of the trust, therefore, seems to have no further significance. The only record of Gustloff Stiftung on the books of Wehrli is in connection with the sale of the Hirtenbergerwerke properties.

This revelation, if true, seems very disturbing, in that a Swiss bank had a specific account set up to hold plundered assets of European Jews. From other documents, we have information that leads us to believe that the Wehrli Bank was also used to transfer assets of Germans to Argentina, near the end of World War II and after. This begs the

question, were assets from the Gustloff Stiftung also transferred to South America or other locations.

Of particular concern is the further question of whether there were other accounts like the Gustloff Stiftung in other Swiss banks. While we cannot yet verify this, it is entirely possible that if one such account existed, others did also.

On the topic of Jewish assets in Swiss banks, I would like to comment that the answers that we are receiving to questions we are asking the Swiss Bankers Association are wholly insufficient. They are evasive and they continue to deny any knowledge of impropriety. They continue to dodge questions as to where these assets might be, or if they even existed.

We have very clear information that suggests that Swiss banks have continued to maintain this myth now for over one-half of a century. In this vein, I would like to submit for the record, evidence of this claim.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, at this point, three documents detailing a request for information on their account in the Swiss Bank Corporation, from July 1939, made on behalf of an Austrian Jewish couple by the names of Anny and Kurt Kadisch. One is a letter to the State Department from Congressman Robert L. Rodgers regarding this request, the second is a letter to the Swiss Bank Corporation from the Kadisch's attorney to the bank, and the third is the answer from the Swiss Bank Corporation to the Kadisch's attorney.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 7, 1939.
OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LIVESEY: On June 27th my office contacted you relative to the proper procedure to be followed to ascertain the status of an account in a bank in Switzerland. The information which was given to me by the constituent making the inquiry was not sufficient to enable the Department of State to give any definite instructions, and your office suggested we make further inquiry of my correspondent.

In today's mail my constituent, Mr. Roberts, advised me further in the matter—as will be noted in the inclosed letters (copies).

What Anny and Kurt Kadisch really desire is to effect the transfer of the funds to the credit of Account 61879 to this country. They also want to know the status of the account at the present time and the best course to follow to have these funds transferred to the United States.

Any information your office can furnish, or advice as to procedure for Mr. Roberts or his clients, Anny and Kurt Kadisch, will be personally appreciated. I am well acquainted with Mr. Roberts, who is a capable and reliable attorney.

Very respectfully,

R.L. RODGERS.

SAMUEL J. ROBERTS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Erie, PA, May 23, 1939.

ALBERT MARTI, *Director,*
Schweizer Bankverein,
Zuerich, Rudolfsplatz, Switzerland.

DEAR DIRECTOR MARTI: We have been requested by Anny and Kurt Kadisch, formerly of Graz, Austria, to determine the present status of Account No. 61879, which consists of the purchase of Two Thousand (2000) pounds British War Assented Loan 3½%.

Will you please be kind enough to give us whatever information you have concerning this Account and forward to us forms, or documents, which may be necessary to prepare an order to effect a transfer of said Account?

You are assured that we shall greatly appreciate any information which you can give us concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL J. ROBERTS.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,
Zurich, Switzerland.

Basle St. Gall Geneva Lausanne,
La Chaux-de-Fonds Neuchatel, Schaffhausen
London E.C., 2, 99 Gresham St., Bienne
Chlasso Herisau Le Locle Nyon, Algle
Bischofszell Morges Rorschach Zofingen.
Fully paid-up capital and reserves Fr.
194,000,000.

Telegrams: Suisbanque.

SAMUEL J. ROBERTS, ESQ.,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Erie, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

ZURICH, JUNE 2, 1939.

DEAR SIR: We are in receipt of your letter of May 23rd and regret being unable to give you the information desired.

Yours faithfully

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, as one can read, the Kadisch's attorney requested help for them from Congressman Rodgers, who then wrote to the State Department on their behalf. Their attorney also wrote on their behalf to the bank in question. The Kadisch's were checking on the status of their account, of which unlike other claimants, they had the account number.

As we have found to be the case after the war, the Swiss bank denied them any information about the account. As of yet, we do not know what was the fate of this account. This is, however, disturbing, especially since the Kadisch's had the bank's name as well as the account number. This document only brings up more questions for the Swiss banks to answer.

I hope that we will be able to obtain answers to these and other questions in the coming months. Right now, however, I am very disappointed in the lack of cooperation by the Swiss Bankers Association and their continued denial of knowledge regarding these accounts as well as the fate of plundered Jewish assets.

The 1996 NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, along with several of my colleagues, I rise today to commend the many people helping to conduct our fight against breast cancer and to promote participation in an event that has increased